



**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

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**May 25, 1999**

**99-12**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CHP SAYS SAFETY BELTS SAVE LIVES - TINY SURVIVOR IS PROOF**

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- Who:** Officer Hector Meza, Coastal Division El Protector Coordinator, California Highway Patrol  
Ms. Columba Damaso, Aunt and guardian of Tania (18-month old crash survivor)
- What:** Availability for interviews about the tragic crash which took the lives of Tania's parents, the effectiveness of safety belts, and the CHP's new safety belt public service announcement which features Tania along with California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamonte and Officer Meza.
- Where:** CHP Coastal Division office, 4115 Broad Street, #B-10, San Luis Obispo
- When:** Wednesday, May 26, 1999, 9:00 a.m. - Noon.
- Why:** In support of National Buckle-Up America Week, the CHP is releasing a public service announcement (in both English and Spanish) which features Tania, the young survivor of a 450 foot plunge off Highway 1 near Big Sur. California leads the nation in safety belt use, with over 90 percent of vehicle occupants buckled up. The CHP wants the state to continue that lead.

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**ATTN: NEWS DESK/ASSIGNMENT EDITORS:**  
The PSA will be downlinked on May 26, 1999 between 1:00 and 1:15 p.m. Pacific Time.  
Satellite: SBS6/transponder 2 full  
Downlink Frequency: 11743 vertical  
Audio: 6.2 & 6.8